

8 DEC 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant to DD/I (NSC and National Estimates)

SUBJECT: Topics for Future Discussion or Consideration
by the National Security Council

REFERENCE: Memo for DCI from Gordon Gray, dated 3 December
1959, same subject (C-483-99)

1. In response to your request, which we received yesterday, for a list of topics which might warrant discussion by the NSC, I am forwarding the following ideas drawn from our staff:

a. Long-Range Implications and Consequences of Expanding Soviet Activities in Antarctica

Soviet expansion includes: (1) introduction of the nuclear icebreaker; (2) possibly of "scientific" submarines; (3) expansion of whaling to four fleets (50-60 ships); (4) non-stop air communications; and (5) there is even a possibility that the Soviets might attempt to use the Antarctic for impacting an ICBM instrumented for "scientific" observations.

b. Assessment of the Importance of Soviet Research in the Earth Sciences

The Soviets from their earliest days have been investing heavily in earth science research designed to establish mastery over nature through constant improvements in all types of forecasting of natural phenomena (weather forecasting, mineral exploration, fishing) and the development of techniques to deter or modify other phenomena (e.g., climate control, alteration of genetic characteristics of flora and fauna). Soviet goals are now world-wide in scope and call for unified study of the earth as a whole. Individual U.S. geophysicists have been impressed by the magnitude and comprehensiveness of Soviet activities in this field. These developments not only have a bearing on relative military capabilities, but on achievements in the cold war as well.

8 DEC 1959

**SUBJECT: Topics for Future Discussion or Consideration by the
National Security Council**

c. Challenge of the Rapidly Expanding Soviet R and D Program

In the past five years we have observed a rapidly mounting Soviet research and development program primarily in the military field, presumably aimed at a technological breakthrough which would significantly affect the balance of military power between the USSR and the USA. What efforts are being made by the US today and what measures and policies need to be adopted to meet this challenge?

d. Implication of Soviet Economic Growth for U.S. Policy

While there has been much discussion in the Executive Branch of the Government and the Congress of the challenge of Soviet economic growth, we believe that concerted attention needs to be given to the development of U.S. policies aimed at meeting this challenge. This, of course, is a matter to which the DCI has already devoted considerable attention.

e. The Expanding Bloc Offensive in Latin America and Africa

In the light of the developments in the Bloc political and economic offensive in Africa and Latin America, consideration should be given to short term countermeasures and long-term interests in these areas.

f. Soviet Civil Defense Program

This might be discussed in connection with consideration of the U.S. civil defense program.

g. International Controls Over the Operation of Space Vehicles Orbiting the Earth

h. International Agreements on Disposal of Nuclear Waste

i. International Agreement on Law of the Sea. (Conference to be held at Geneva, March 17-April 14, 1960).

j. Long-Term Implications of World-Wide Population Growth, with Special Attention to China and India

25X1A9a

Distribution:

Orig. & 1 - Addressee
2 - OAD/RR
1 - Ch/E
✓ 1 - Ch/G

Deputy Assistant Director
Research and Reports

25X1A9a